

A tsunami is a series of waves most commonly caused by an earthquake beneath the sea floor.

If a large earthquake displaces the sea floor near the Washington Coast, the first waves may reach the outer coast minutes after the ground stops shaking. There would be no time for authorities to issue a warning. This tsunami would reach Port Townsend in about 2 hours.

Following an earthquake far out in the Pacific Ocean it may take hours for tsunami waves to reach the Washington Coast. The West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center alerts local officials who may order evacuation, but isolated areas may not receive official announcements. If you notice a sudden drop or rise in sea level, it may be a warning of impending danger. Move to high ground or inland immediately.

The waves can kill and injure people and cause great property damage where they come ashore. The first wave is often not the largest; successive waves may be spaced many minutes apart and continue to arrive for several hours.

What is a tsunami?

Tsunami!

Safety Tips  
for the  
Washington  
Coast!



Evacuation Map  
for Neah Bay  
and Vicinity

**Where do tsunamis occur?**

Tsunamis can occur at any time of the day or night, under any and all weather conditions, and in all seasons. Beaches open to the ocean, by bay entrances or tidal flats, and the shores of coastal rivers are especially vulnerable to tsunamis.

**How do I know when to evacuate?**

A strong off-shore earthquake may generate a tsunami. Therefore, if you feel the ground shake, evacuate inland or to high ground immediately and return only after officials say it is safe to do so.

During distant source tsunami events, local Emergency Management officials will advise citizens to evacuate by making an announcement. Monitor your NOAA Weather Radio or keep a local radio and/or TV station on for information and emergency instructions.

**Where do I evacuate?**

Go to an area 50 feet above sea level, if possible. If you don't have time to travel to high ground, but are in a multi-story building, go to an upper level of the home or building. If you are on the beach and unable to get to high ground go inland as far as you can. The tsunami evacuation map illustrates the primary evacuation routes and assembly areas. Take your disaster supply kit with you.

CONTACTS



**Washington Military Department  
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Web site at: [www.emd.wa.gov](http://www.emd.wa.gov)  
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*For information regarding emergency and disaster preparedness for the Makah Nation, please contact:*



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**What should I do if an earthquake occurs while at the coast?**

1. Drop, cover and hold. Get under a sturdy object and hold on. Watch for falling objects.
2. As soon as the shaking is over, move to high ground or inland. Do not wait for an official warning.
3. Stay away from the coast. Waves may continue to arrive for hours.
4. Listen to your local radio station for an official "All Clear" notice before returning to the coastal area.
5. Be alert for aftershocks.

**What can I do to protect myself from a tsunami?**

- Develop a family disaster plan. Everyone needs to know what to do on their own to protect themselves from an earthquake.
- Be familiar with local Emergency Management earthquake and tsunami plans. Know where to go to survive a tsunami.
- Be prepared to survive on your own for a minimum of three days.
- Prepare a disaster supply kit for your home, automobile and work. A list of recommended supplies for your kit appears on the inside of this brochure.
- Take a first aid course and learn survival skills. Knowledge is your greatest defense against potential disaster.

**How do I get inland or to high ground?**

Go on foot if necessary, particularly if an earthquake has caused damage to roads, power lines, and resulted in significant debris.

**What is the difference between a Watch and a Warning?**

A watch means conditions are favorable for something to happen. A warning means it is going to happen.

**Remember:**

- Never go to the coast to watch a tsunami. Tsunamis move faster than a person can run. If you are camping on or near the beach, you may have to abandon your campsite to go inland or to higher ground to save your life.
- Do not return to shore after the first wave. Wait for Emergency Management officials to give the "All Clear" before you return.
- If you see an unexpected rise or fall in the coastal water, a tsunami may be approaching. Do not wait — instead move inland or uphill as quickly as possible.
- Stay tuned to your radio, marine radio or NOAA Weather Radio during a disaster. Bulletins will be issued regularly through local Emergency Management officials and National Weather Service.
- Call 9-1-1 only for life threatening emergencies.

# EVACUATION ROUTES FOR NEAH BAY AND VICINITY



### Evacuation signs and what they mean:

Tsunami evacuation routes were developed to assist coastal residents and visitors find safer locations in case of an earthquake and tsunami. Evacuation signs have been placed along roadways to indicate the direction inland or to higher ground. In some places, there may be more than one direction available to reach safer areas. These routes may be marked with several signs showing additional options for evacuation. You will need to know the evacuation routes for your area.

### Community Plans

Every attempt has been made by local Emergency Management offices to locate evacuation routes and public assembly areas that are safe, within a reasonable distance for foot or vehicle traffic, and accessible within a short period of time. These are difficult criteria to meet in some geographic areas, primarily as a result of private property issues. For that reason, residents who may be impacted by tsunami activity, but do not have an "official" route or assembly area within a reasonable distance, are urged to work together to develop an evacuation plan within their neighborhood or community. A plan should address property access issues, evacuation routes, and what might be expected in terms of numbers of people needing to access a locally organized assembly area.



### When you feel the ground shake:

- Drop, cover and hold.
- Evacuate inland or to higher ground immediately. Do not wait for notification.
- Take your 3-day disaster supply kit.
- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or your local radio station for information on shelter locations and emergency broadcasts.  
NOAA Weather Radio frequencies:  
Astoria 162.40 Mhz  
Mt. Octopus 162.55 Mhz  
Olympia 162.475 Mhz
- Be aware of aftershocks.
- Do not return to the beach until emergency officials give the "All Clear" notice.

### Disaster Supply Kit

Each home should have a 3-day disaster kit. Your kit should be adapted to your personal needs – but keep it light and manageable in case you must evacuate on foot. Have your emergency survival kit ready to go if told to evacuate immediately. The following is a list of survival kit supplies:

- Road maps showing safe evacuation routes to high ground
- First-aid supplies and personal prescriptions
- Non-perishable food, cooking and eating utensils
- Water (one gallon per person per day)
- Water carrying bag or container
- Extra blankets, ponchos and clothes
- Special food and supplies for infants
- Plastic bags for garbage and waste
- Rubber, latex, and heavy-duty gloves
- Pocket knife, flat 12" pry bar, and duct tape
- Tube tent
- Flashlights (extra batteries)
- Battery-operated AM radio (extra batteries)
- Whistles
- Dental and personal hygiene items
- Matches